

These are our 'Top Tips' to help you enjoy your child's journey of learning together...

- ★ Take an interest in the things your child has discovered. Try to answer any questions your child asks. If you don't know the answer, show how you could find one, by asking other people, using books, the internet or the library.
- ★ Share your own interests and knowledge with your child - about sports and hobbies, work together or tasks such as cooking, repairs or gardening.
- ★ Talk to your child about your 'job' as the children enjoy knowing, talking and speculating about what their Mummy and Daddy do.
- ★ Ask questions to encourage your child to talk about why certain things happen. For example, what happens to the raindrops on a window? After it rains, why is there always a puddle on that bit of the pavement?
- ★ Let your child become familiar with and use, when safe, ordinary pieces of equipment around the house. They can learn what tools are used for what jobs and how to use them safely and effectively.
- ★ Children can learn to use technology such as computers and tablets, from a young age. Sitting with your child, he or she can begin to learn how to use equipment under your guidance, to explore software and apps, such as drawing programs, interactive story telling etc. Show your children how technology can be a good source of information and connection with others.
- ★ Young children can start to explore technology through supporting your child to co-ordinate their actions for example to explore push button toys, open and close flaps in books and make a call on a telephone.
- ★ Support your child in playing with blocks or construction toys. Don't tell them what to make but ask questions to expand on what they are doing.
- ★ Spend time talking about the adults in their lives who are important to them. It is great to use family photographs to share. Use the photographs of the family to talk about 'past' events and begin to talk about the 'future' of now and next. Use photos or memories to help them think about their own life span.
- ★ Talk about family traditions, festivals such as birthdays and anniversaries and any foods special to your family.
- ★ When you are out, help your child to recognise familiar features in the area such as trees and rivers, schools, libraries and the doctors surgery. You might also look at features that are less desirable, such as litter and what we should do with it.

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises 7 different areas of learning. **Understanding the World** is one of the 4 Specific Areas.

Science is about making and testing hypotheses. This is what infants do all the time! They are continually experimenting and asking "What if" in actions rather than words. The first time a baby knocks a cup from the highchair, it's an accident. Next time, it's on purpose to check if the falling cup will cause the same intriguing splash on the floor and the same exciting noise from mum!

As long as these little investigators are surrounded by interesting things and as long as they feel secure, they will continue to investigate and learn. Their active brains have a lot to process. No wonder they sleep so soundly at the end of the day.

### **The Early Learning Goals:**

(This is the level of attainment which children should be expected to attain at the end of the foundation stage, age 5.)

More information about the Early Years Foundation Stage is available from the foundation years website: [www.foundationyears.org.uk](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk).

Other useful websites:

<http://www.nurseryrhymes4u.com>

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk>

<http://www.sesamestreet.org/>

<http://nrich.maths.org/early-years> is

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